

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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S E C R E T ATHENS 1431

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: THIRD ROUND COMMUNIQUE

1. CALOGERAS TELEPHONED STEARNS THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT, DESPITE U.S. DESIRE FOR MORE DETAILED AND FORTH-COMING COMMUNIQUE ON THRID ROUND - VIEWPOINT THAT WAS EXPRESSED EMPHATICALLY AND IN STRONG TERMS AGAIN LAST NIGHT BY AMBASSADOR KUBISCH TO PRESIDENT TSATSOS AND DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF (CARAMANLIS WAS ILL AND DID NOT ATTEND THE DINNER) - PRIME MINISTER REMAINED CONVINCED THAT FOR TACTICAL REASONS SHORT STATEMENT IS NECESSARY. CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM AMERICAN SIDE ONCE MORE THAT PRIME MINISTER'S PREFERENCE FOR BREVITY DID NOT REPEAT NOT REFLECT LACK OF SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF THE THIRD ROUND. CARAMANLIS WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF AGREEMENTS REACHED AND THE MUTUALITY OF OUR DEFENSE INTERESTS AFTER THE FOURTH ROUND.

2. STEARNS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THIS DECISION. HE INFORMED CALOGERAS THAT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES STATEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY GREEK GOVERNMENT AND

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COULD NOT BE ISSUED AS JOINT STATEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE.

WHILE U.S. WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THE GREEK STATEMENT, WE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE THE STATEMENT AVAILABLE THROUGH USIS. WE EXPECTED THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS A GOG STATEMENT. IF WE RECEIVED PRESS QUERIES ON THE FORM OR CONTENT OF THE GREEK STATEMENT, WE WOULD REFER THEM TO THE GOG PRESS SPOKESMAN, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD OF COURSE INDICATE THAT WE WERE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE THIRD ROUND AND BELIEVED THAT ALL MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE WERE MOVING TOWARD SOLUTION. IF WE WERE ASKED WHETHER THE ABSENCE OF A JOINT STATEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE REFLECTED SERIOUS AND UNRESOLVED DIFFERENCES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, WE WOULD REPLY IN THE NEGATIVE.

3. STEARNS THEN SAID THAT WHILE THE WORDING OF A GREEK STATEMENT WAS ESSENTIALLY THE BUSINESS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, HE WISHED TO MAKE A FEW SUGGESTIONS WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD IMPROVE THE GREEK TEXT. HE THEN CONVEYED TO CALOGERAS DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDED REVISIONS AS TRANSMITTED REFTEL (A).

4. CALOGERAS TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF ALL THIS AND CALLED STEARNS BACK IN A FEW MINUTES TO SAY THAT HE HAD CONSULTED WITH BITSIOS WHO UNDERSTOOD THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD ISSUE IMMEDIATELY THIS AFTERNOON THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN ITS OWN NAME: BEGIN QUOTE:

DELEGATIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE MET IN ATHENS JANUARY 26 TO FEBRUARY 1976, FOR A THIRD ROUND OF TALKS ON MUTUAL DEFENSE MATTERS. THE GREEK DELEGATION WAS LED BY AMBASSADOR PETROS CALOGERAS AND THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION BY MINISTER MONTEAGLE STEARNS.

ALTHOUGH VERY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS WAS MADE ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS UNDER NEGOTIATION, FURTHER TALKS WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE AGREEMENT IS REACHED, ON ACCOUNT OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS FOURTH ROUND WILL BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

BOTH DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED THEIR FULL SATISFACTION FOR THE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE SPIRIT IN WHICH THE TALKS WERE CONDUCTED. END QUOTE

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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